



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 28 January 1967



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DAILY BRIEF
28 JANUARY 1967

1. Communist China

Moscow's recent ridiculing of the cultural revolution seems to be getting under Peking's skin.

The Chinese appear to have deliberately provoked Wednesday's clash in Red Square between transiting Chinese students and Soviet authorities.

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At all events, the incident has triggered a propaganda assault of unprecedented bitterness against the Soviet Union. Peking has berated the Soviet leaders for "fascist atrocities," and has for the first time claimed a "blood debt."

The Chinese probably figure they can do this without bringing on a break in relations--a move that would cost Moscow its last vestige of political presence in Peking and seriously complicate Soviet efforts to aid North Vietnam.

2. Czechoslovakia

US citizen Kazan, kidnapped last October from a Soviet plane during an "emergency" landing in Prague, will be tried, sentenced--and then expelled from Czechoslovakia.

So, at least, says a source our embassy suspects the Czech foreign ministry may be using as an informal channel. The source added that this "firm decision" would be altered only if US statements or actions before or during the trial suggest further US pressure on Czechoslovakia.

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3. Ecuador

The government has ordered extra police protection for the US and Peruvian embassies

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The police may not have their hearts in their work, however, as they have had no pay since November and no allowances for months before then. Our embassy is battening down the hatches just in case.

4. Nationalist China

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5. France

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6. South Vietnam

The time of decision is approaching on the selection of the military's candidate for president. Premier Ky clearly wants the job, but he is by no means a sure bet.

During Ky's recent absence in Australia and New Zealand, Chief of State Thieu was touring the delta in what looked very much like a campaign junket. He made many speeches, handed out money to wounded soldiers and promised land titles to over a hundred families.

At this point, the two men seem about evenly matched

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7. Saudi Arabia

The Saudis claim that yesterday's bombing of a Saudi border town by Egyptian bombers from Yemen has been followed by two more raids.

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This morning, Faysal's foreign affairs adviser asked Ambassador Eilts what action the US proposes to take in accordance with its assurance against unprovoked aggression.

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